"The Universities, Sire, in our country especially, are the principal foci of scientific life. There not only the men of science of the future are trained, but the present representatives of higher research work, create, and distinguish themselves. There also the Royal Academy by preference seeks its fellows to associate them in its task and to render it fruitful.

"Its mission cannot be divorced from that of the institutions for higher education, and their lustre and their decline are simultaneous.

"In the name of this great and twofold interest the President of the Royal Academy feels bound to call the attention of your Majesty to the mode of appointment to the professorial chairs in the State Universities.

"The method adopted is absolutely faulty, and it affords to Science none of those guarantees which she has a right to demand.

"The intensity of party strife has the effect of absorbing into its vortex even those acts of the public authorities which ought to be least open to its influence. In place of conferring the University chairs upon the most capable men as their rightful prerogative, with the sole thought of raising the level of studies and of enlarging the intellectual patrimony of mankind, we too often see the spirit of faction disposing of such positions arbitrarily, to the injury of the scientific spirit.

"An incompetent professor paralyzes for a quarter of a century, even if he does not kill, instruction in the department committed to him. An improper nominee is a denial of justice.

"The courts of law have been invested with the right of presentation to vacant judgeships; an analogous prerogative ought to be conferred on the faculties of the Universities. Their choice would then be dictated by considerations essentially scientific, and to this end the Royal Academy relies on the great influence of the King."

"The King," adds the *Indépendance Belge*, "did not accept this appeal to his influence, and the Ministers present bestowed black looks upon the President of the Academy."

This impressive discourse has its lessons for us also, as it emphasizes the necessity of conferring scientific appointments purely in accordance *rebus gestis*, and in consideration of the actual work done by the candidate.

W. C.

NOTES.

THE annual *conversazione* of the Royal Society will be held on Wednesday, June 15.

AT the annual meeting for the election of Fellows, held on Thursday last, the Royal Society elected the fifteen candidates whose names, with the statement of their qualifications, we have already printed.

THE British Medical Association will hold its sixtieth annual meeting at Nottingham on July 26, and the three following days. Mr. Joseph White, consulting surgeon of the Nottingham General Hospital, will preside. Addresses will be given, in medicine, by Prof. James Cumming, of Queen's College, Belfast; in surgery, by Prof. W. H. Hingston, of Montreal; and in bacteriology, by Dr. G. Sims Woodhead, of the Research Laboratory of the Colleges of Physicians and Surgeons, England. The scientific work of the meeting will be done in ten sections.

AT a meeting of the American Philosophical Society, Philadelphia, on May 20, it was decided that the one hundred and fiftieth anniversary of the foundation of the Society should be worthily celebrated in 1893, and a committee was appointed to make the necessary arrangements.

THE Federated Institution of Mining Engineers held their general meeting in London on Thursday and Friday last. At the meeting on Thursday papers were read on "Gold Mining in New Zealand," by G. J. Binns, and on "Petroleum in Eastern Europe and the Method of Drilling for it," by A. W. Eastlake. Prof. T. E. Thorpe gave some practical demonstrations of the action of coal-dust when exploded with gas. The members visited the Electrical Exhibition at the Crystal Palace in the afternoon, and dined together at the Garden Hall in the evening. Among the papers read at the meeting on Friday were papers on "The Causes of Spontaneous Combustion of Coal and Prevention of Explosion on Ships," by M. V. Jones; "A Safety-cage for Mines and Hoists," by J. Whitelaw; "Winding by Water-balance at Ynis Merthyr Colliery," by M. W. Davies; and "Gold Milling," by W. F. Wilkinson.

THE Aldini Medal for Animal Electricity has been awarded to Dr. A. Waller, Lecturer on Physiology, St. Mary's Hospital Medical School, by the Bologna Academy of Sciences.

THE Council of the Institution of Electrical Engineers decided that the Salomons Scholarship of £35 should be given to a second year's student training to become an electrical engineer at either King's College, University College, the City and Guilds Central Institution, or the Finsbury Technical College. The first award has just been made to C. H. C. Woodhouse, Matriculated Student of the Central Institution, Associate of the Royal College of Science, and B.Sc. of the London University.

AT the annual meeting of the Institution of Civil Engineers Mr. Harrison Hayter was elected to act as President for the ensuing year. The Vice-Presidents are Alfred Giles, Sir Robert Rawlinson, Sir Benjamin Baker, F.R.S., and Sir Jas. N. Douglass, F.R.S. The following are the other members of Council:—W. Anderson, F.R.S., J. Wolfe Barry, Alex. R. Binnie, E. A. Cowper, Sir Douglas Fox, J. C. Hawkshaw, Charles Hawksley, Sir Bradford Leslie, George Fosbery Lyster, James Mansergh, Sir Guildford L. Molesworth, W. H. Preece, F.R.S., Sir Edward J. Reed, F.R.S., William Shelford, and Francis W. Webb.

IN the official abstract of the report of the Council of the Institution of Civil Engineers for the session 1891–92, it is stated that 59 associate members had been transferred to the class of member, and that there had been elected 3 honorary members, 28 members, 324 associate members, and 7 associates, while 4 associate members had been restored to the register. These additions together amounted to 366. After deducting 145 names from deaths, resignations, and erasures, there was an increase of 221, bringing up the total number on the register to 5371, as against 5150 at the corresponding date last year. This enumeration was irrespective of the students, of whom 200 had been admitted during the year, as against 166 for the previous twelve months; but during this period, 106 students had become associate members, and 140 had disappeared from the list, so that the number now on the books was only 868, whereas last year the number was 914. Thus, including students, the total number on the books was now 6239, as against 6064 twelve months ago. The following awards have been made to the authors of papers which have been discussed:—A George Stephenson Medal and a Telford Premium to Mr. Alex. R. Binnie; Telford Medals and Telford Premiums to Mr. A. P. Trotter and Mr. W. T. Douglass; and Telford Premiums to Messrs. H. Alfred Roechling, A. H. Curtis, W. Airy, H. Gill, and Prof. W. C. Roberts-Austen. In respect of communications which have been deemed suitable for printing without being discussed, Telford Medals and Telford Premiums had been adjudged to

Messrs. F. Fox and Alfred W. Szlumper; and Telford Premiums to Messrs. Sheibner, T. H. Beare, W. C. Unwin, E. Penny, A. D. Stewart, R. H. B. Downes, and W. Matthews. The Howard Quinquennial Prize had been awarded to Sir Isaac Lowthian Bell, Bart., F.R.S., for his treatise on "The Principles involved in the Manufacture of Iron and Steel." The papers read at supplemental meetings of students had shown in nearly every case evidence of having been prepared with care. Three, at least, were of high merit, and, with four others above the average, had been deemed worthy of publication, either in whole or in part, in the Minutes of Proceedings. For these seven papers the Council have awarded the Miller Scholarship to Mr. H. B. Ransom for his paper on "Fly-Wheels and Governors," and Miller Prizes to Messrs. C. H. Wordingham, E. L. Hill, D. Carnegie, G. H. Sheffield, J. B. Ball, and R. J. Durley.

AT the second annual dinner of the Institute of Marine Engineers, held last Thursday, Lord Kelvin, the President, said in the course of his inaugural address that the institution was one which he thought could not fail to be of the greatest service to the cause of marine engineering. He had only to go back to the days of his youth to recall the immense strides which had been made in this great industry. His father was an Irishman, as he himself was, and he used to cross the Channel from his home in county Down as best he could to land at some point on the coast of Scotland and find his way to the University of Glasgow, there to pursue his studies. He used to make the passage in whatever sailing vessel he could find taking the cattle across, and the time of the passage was not part of the bargain. On one occasion he sailed from Belfast to Greenock in twelve hours; on another he was four days on the passage, and sailed three times round Ailsa Craig. It was only necessary to state such facts to show how vast had been the progress since those days. No branch of engineering, no branch of science which aimed at supplying the wants of mankind, had made greater progress in the last sixty years than that. He was not forgetting railways or telegraphs; but he said advisedly that no branch of engineering had made greater or more splendid strides than marine engineering.

MISS DOBERCK, who has been appointed assistant meteorologist in Hong Kong, is the sister, not the daughter, of the present Director of the Hong Kong Meteorological Observatory.

ACCORDING to a telegram from Naples, dated June 7, the eruption of Mount Vesuvius, which had been noticeable for some little time, had considerably increased in volume, and large masses of lava were flowing into the Atrio di Cavallo ravine.

ON June 7, at 12.30 a.m., an earthquake shock was felt at San Severo, in the province of Foggia, and an adjoining hamlet. The oscillations, which were of an undulatory character, created a temporary panic.

THE weather during the first part of the past week has been fine over the eastern and southern portions of England, but unsettled in Ireland and Scotland, with a considerable amount of rainfall, while the temperature was much lower, generally, than in the previous week, the daily maxima not exceeding 70°. On the morning of the 4th a disturbance appeared off the Irish coast and crossed our islands on Sunday, causing heavy rain in places, and thunderstorms in the eastern parts of England. The *Weekly Weather Report* for the week ending the 4th instant shows that during that period the rainfall exceeded the mean in all districts, excepting the east of England, where bright sunshine was very prevalent. Over Ireland and in the north of Scotland the excess above the normal rainfall was large, being 1·2 inch and 0·8 inch respectively, yet, reckoning from the beginning of the year, there was still a deficiency in all districts. On Monday, the 6th, a great increase of temperature occurred in most parts of this country, and the weather became much more settled, under the influence of an anticyclone which approached our islands from the southward, while the shade temperature in London reached 73° and 74° at Loughborough. During the early part of this week, the anticyclone became well established, and had caused the temperature to rise considerably in Scotland and Ireland, with prospects of settled, fine weather, generally.

MR. R. H. SCOTT has contributed an article, entitled "Notes on the Climate of the British Isles," to *Longman's Magazine*. The author gives some amusing instances of the distortion of facts at seaside stations, where the observers are anxious to prove the advantages of their own towns over those of their rivals. Taking the whole year round, the warmest spot is the Scilly Isles, which are a degree warmer than either the west of Cornwall or the Channel Islands; while the coldest region on the coast is the extreme north-east of Aberdeenshire. In winter very little difference of temperature is met with all along the east coast; but the coldest part of England lies round the Wash. With regard to the variability of temperature, or the difference of the mean temperature of an entire day, the equability of the temperature of these islands is very great. The only locality for which a more uniform temperature has yet been published is Georgetown (Demerara); the figure for this place is 1°·1, while for London it is 2°·7. All the great changes of temperature occur in winter, and accompany sudden thaws. As regards bright sunshine, the Channel Islands are by far the most favoured. On the mean of the whole year, Jersey secures 39 per cent.; but from the Bristol Channel to the coast of Norfolk there is but little difference in the amounts recorded. In cities like London the deficiency is due to smoke. The statistics relating to fog are not yet completely discussed, but so far as they go they show that in winter the foggiest district is the east coast of England. Next come London and Oxford, which are about equal. With regard to rainfall the east coast stations receive on an average of the whole year about half as much as those on the west coast, the amount being about 25 inches on the east coast, 30 to 40 inches between Sussex and Devonshire, and 50 inches to the south of Cornwall. In the west of Ireland the amount rises to 70 or 80 inches, owing to high land near the coast. The driest hour almost everywhere is noon.

MR. C. MICHIE SMITH has edited a work embodying "Results of the Meteorological Observations made at the Government Observatory, Madras, during the years 1861–90, under the direction of the late Mr. Norman Robert Pogson." The volume is published by order of the Government of Madras. It was Mr. Pogson's intention to issue the work as soon as he could after the completion of thirty years of observation, and at the time of his death a considerable part of the manuscript was nearly ready for press. In editing the work, Mr. Smith, so far as possible, has retained the original plan. He expresses much admiration for the skill and thoroughness with which the observations were organized and carried out.

THE Essex Field Club will probably hold its first dredging meeting of the season at Brightlingsea on Friday and Saturday, June 24 and 25. Other field meetings in course of arrangement are: Visit to Dagenham district (June or July); the Writtle Woods (July 30); Rochford and Rayleigh (August); on the Stour from Bures to Manningtree; visit to the Dene-holes, &c.

THE Clarendon Press will publish immediately a second volume of Prof. Weismann's work on "Heredity and Kindred Biological Problems." It contains four essays, of which only the shortest has previously appeared in an English form (in the columns of NATURE). The first essay deals with degeneration, and clearly shows, by abundant illustrations, that it has resulted from *panmixia*, or the cessation of natural selection. The second is an attempt to explain the development of the art of music, and to show that the hereditary transmission of the results of practice is quite unnecessary in order to account for its rise. The third contains a reply to certain objections urged by Prof. Vines. It will be useful in giving clearer expression to the ideas on the death of multicellular beings and the immortality of the unicellular. The fourth and last essay is by far the longest and most important. It deals with the essential significance of sexual reproduction and conjugation, &c., as inferred from the results of the most recent researches. Prof. Weismann's older views on these subjects (especially concerning the polar bodies) have been modified and in part abandoned. The immortality of unicellular beings and the question of the transmission of acquired characters by them are also discussed in detail with reference to recent observations.

WE have received the first volume of the *Jahrbuch der Chemie*, a new periodical issued by the Frankfort publisher H. Bechhold. The editor is Prof. Richard Meyer, of Brunswick. Chemistry is now divided into so many departments that it is difficult for specialists to obtain an accurate idea of the recent progress of the science as a whole. The object of the *Jahrbuch* is to supply this need, and, if we may judge from the first issue, the work is likely to fulfil its purpose admirably. The editor has secured the co-operation of many well-known chemists, each of whom presents a general view of what was done last year in the department of research to which he himself is more particularly devoted. Thus there are, among other papers, reports on physical chemistry, by W. Nernst; on inorganic chemistry, by G. Krüss; on organic chemistry, by C. A. Bischoff; on physiological chemistry, by F. Röhmann; on pharmaceutical chemistry, by H. Beckurts; on agricultural chemistry, by E. F. Dürre; on explosives, by C. Häussermann; and on photography, by J. M. Eder and E. Valenta. In future issues the editor hopes to include the bibliography of each branch of the subject.

THE new number of Wundt's *Philosophische Studien* opens with a comprehensive paper by the editor on "Hypnotism and Suggestion." The subject is treated from the double standpoint of physiology and psychology; and the article should go far towards bringing about a saner tone of thought than that which is just now current, even in "educated circles." Mr. Titchener's chronometrical determinations reduce the recognition time of colours to 30, of letters and short words to 50 thousandths of a second. Dr. Merkel's article on the psychophysical error-methods is concluded; and Drs. Külpe and Kirschmann publish the results of a careful testing of the Hipp chronoscope (old pattern) by means of a new control-hammer.

ON Sunday last a terrible disaster overtook the petroleum district in Pennsylvania, especially the places called Oil City and Titusville. A thunderstorm, accompanied by torrents of rain, broke over the district, and the two cities were so quickly inundated by the swollen waters of Oil Creek that it was difficult for the inhabitants to escape to the hills, and many were drowned. Several refineries were struck by lightning, so that the unfortunate towns were devastated equally by fire and by water. It is supposed that about 200 persons lost their lives, while the destruction of property was enormous.

THE gallery in the South Kensington Museum assigned to the large collection of wrought iron work which has for some time been closed for rearrangement, was re-opened to the public on Whit Monday. The larger grilles and screens, including the gates from Hampton Court, are now placed in the arched spaces on either side, while the lanterns, cressets, signs, &c., are suspended along the gallery, smaller objects being shown in sloping glass cases. Among these last is a curious series of rush-candle holders, tobacco tongs, and other domestic implements used in England, chiefly in the eighteenth century, collected and lent by Lady Dorothy Nevill. Examples of the locksmith's art, English, French, and German, are numerous, including some chiselled steel locks and keys from old French buildings, but produced by "Johannes Wilkes de Birmingham" in the seventeenth century. Some of the more famous specimens of mediæval work in English cathedrals have been reproduced in facsimile. A hand-book on "Decorative Iron Work," prepared by Mr. Starkie Gardner, will shortly be published.

THE Board of Directors of the Zoological Society of Philadelphia have issued their twentieth report, and are able to give a good account of their work during the past year. Among the changes of the year was the establishment of "a cheap day," the price of admission on Saturdays and holidays (except the Fourth of July), having been fixed at ten cents for adults and five for children. The result has been satisfactory, the attendance having increased considerably, while there has been no material financial loss. Another fact noted in the report is that an offer of free admission to the Garden was made to the Board of Education for such classes of pupils of the public schools as seemed to the Board likely to profit by the privilege. Under the arrangement entered into, nearly ten thousand scholars of the public schools were admitted between September 23, when tickets were issued, and March 1, the end of the Society's fiscal year.

THE botanical section of the Imperial Museum of Natural History at Vienna is about to issue, under the name "Cryptogamæ, Exsiccatæ," a collection of named Cryptogams to its contributors, and in exchange for other similar collections.

THE Indian papers report that, under the auspices of the Government and Secretary of State for India, an important work, illustrative of the famous Ajanta Cave mural paintings, will be published shortly. The bulk of the work will consist of 173 imperial folio plates, mostly produced in chromo-collotype, by Mr. Griggs, of Peckham, the accompanying text being from the pen of Mr. John Griffiths and Dr. James Burgess, C.I.E.

FROM an official return just published it appears that during 1891 the total number of persons killed in the Punjab by wild beasts and snakes was 861, or one less than during the previous year. The great majority died of snake-bite, only 65 deaths being attributed to wild beasts. On the other hand, of the 966 cattle reported to have been destroyed, only 38 were killed by snakes.

MR. W. S. KEY calls attention, in the American journal *Electricity*, to the difficulty which manufacturers of electrical devices in the United States experience in obtaining iron adapted for electrical purposes. They complain of the inferior quality of the iron, the trouble in obtaining such brands as are in every way suitable, magnetically considered, for use in electrical devices such as dynamo and motor armatures, transformers, &c. They also complain of the irregular and unsatisfactory manner in which it is too generally annealed and finished by rolling, scaling, &c. Some of these manufacturers have for years used imported English, Welsh, and Swedish iron, which is necessarily of high price. They have also used Pennsylvania iron of high quality, but as yet have failed to discover just the quality they need. Mr. Key's experience in connection with a well-known firm in England has convinced him that iron such as is wanted in electrical manufactures might be produced if proper methods were adopted. "To secure such iron," he says, "of course a full and accurate knowledge of the qualities of the various brands of pig-iron now on the market would be a prime requisite; none the less would a correct knowledge of mixing be essential, while the rolling, scaling, and annealing would all have to be very carefully attended to if satisfactory results were to be attained."

An important series of bibliographies relating to the more prominent groups of the languages of the North American Indians, by J. C. Pilling, is being issued by the Smithsonian Institution. The numbers concerning the Eskimauan, Siouan, Iroquoian, and Muskogean families are already known to students of these languages; and now a fifth number, giving the bibliography of the Algonquian languages, has been published. The sixth will include the languages belonging to the Athapascan stock. The volume on the Algonquian languages contains 2245 titular entries, of which 1926 relate to printed books and articles, and 319 to manuscripts. It consists of 614 closely-printed pages, and represents an amount of well-directed labour for which Mr. Pilling deserves the cordial recognition of all who will in any way profit by his researches.

The atomic weight of copper has been redetermined by Dr. Richards, and an account of his work will be found in two papers contributed to the new *Zeitschrift für Anorganische Chemie* (pp. 150 and 187). From the results of experiments concerning the replacement of silver in silver nitrate by metallic copper, Dr. Richards was led to believe that the number usually accepted for copper, 63·3, was considerably too low. He has, therefore, thoroughly investigated the methods by which the old number was obtained, and made a new series of determinations, in which corrections have been applied for the errors due to the mode of analysis adopted. In the year 1874 Hampe made two series of determinations of the atomic weight of this element. One of these, in which the amount of metallic copper contained in copper oxide was estimated, gave the value 63·34; the second, which depended upon the copper content of anhydrous copper sulphate, yielded the number 63·32. The lower of these values has since been generally accepted as representing most probably the true atomic weight of copper, on account of the extreme manipulative care taken by Hampe, and the remarkable agreement of the individual experiments. Dr. Richards, however, has discovered a flaw in the method. Hampe dried his sulphate of copper at 250°; but Dr. Richards has experimentally proved that the so-called anhydrous sulphate obtained at this temperature loses about 0·17 per cent. of its weight when heated to the temperature of the vapour of boiling mercury. This loss, moreover, when taken into account in calculating the atomic weight, brings up the figure almost exactly to that indicated by the replacement of silver experiments. An exhaustive investigation has eventually shown that copper sulphate retains 0·12 per cent. of its water of crystallization, even after it has been subjected to a temperature of 400°. Indeed, this last trace of water is only eliminated at a temperature at which the sulphate itself commences to decompose. Dr. Richards has therefore made a series of redeterminations of the atomic weight by Hampe's method, drying the salt at 250°–270°. On calculating directly from the figures obtained, the experiments gave the mean value 63·35, a result almost identical with that of Hampe. But upon applying the correction for the slight amount of water still retained at this temperature the mean value is raised to 63·60.

In the second communication Dr. Richards discusses the mode of determining the atomic weight by ascertaining the amount of copper contained in copper oxide. He shows that copper oxide which is prepared by the method employed by Hampe, ignition of the oxynitrate, contains four or five times its volume of occluded gases, and that even at a bright red heat only a portion of this occluded gas can be expelled. Dr. Richards has therefore made a series of redeterminations by this method, applying the necessary correction for occluded gas, the correction having been very accurately ascertained from a large number of observations. The final mean value of the atomic weight of copper afforded by the whole of Dr. Richards's experiments is 63·604 (oxygen = 16), the maximum and minimum values being 63·609 and 63·600 respectively. If the value of oxygen is taken as 15·96, that of copper becomes 63·44.

The additions to the Zoological Society's Gardens during the past week include two Four-horned Antelopes (*Tetraceros quadricornis* ♂ ♀) from India, presented by Mr. H. M. Phipson, C.M.Z.S.; a Huanaco (*Lama huanacos* ♂) from Bolivia, presented by Mr. Frank Parish, F.Z.S.; a Black-necked Hare (*Lepus nigricollis*) from Ceylon, presented by Mr. T. C. Kellock; a Common Squirrel (*Sciurus vulgaris*), British, presented by Miss Ruxton; a Masked Parrakeet (*Pyrrhulopsis personata*) from the Fiji Islands, presented by Mr. A. B. Holdsworth; a Booted Eagle (*Nisaëtus pennatus*), European, presented by Lieutenant J. E. Rhodes; a Kestrel (*Tinnunculus alaudarius*), British, presented by Mr. Frank Allen; a European Pond Tortoise (*Emys europæa*), European, presented by Miss Lilian Powell; two Alligators (*Alligator mississippiensis*, jv.) from Florida, presented by Mr. R. White; a Moloch Lizard (*Moloch horridus*) from Australia, presented by Mr. John McLey; a Llama (*Lama peruana* ♂) from Peru, an Ostrich (*Struthio camelus* ♂) from Africa, a One-wattled Cassowary (*Casuarius uniappendiculatus*), a Common Crowned Pigeon (*Goura coronata* ♂) from New Guinea, two Victoria Crowned Pigeons (*Goura victoriæ* ♂ ♀), from the Island of Jobie, two Narrow-barred Pigeons (*Macropygia leptogrammica*) from Java, two Pale-headed Parrakeets (*Platycercus pallidiceps*) from North-East Australia, two Roseate Spoonbills (*Platalea ajaja*) from South America, two Vociferous Sea Eagles (*Haliaëtus vocifer*) from West Africa, purchased; a Japanese Deer (*Cervus sika*), born in the Gardens.

OUR ASTRONOMICAL COLUMN.

Light-Variations of Y Cygni.—The *British Astronomical Journal*, No. 266, contains two contributions from Mr. S. Yendell and Prof. Dunér, the former "On some observed minima of Y Cygni," and the latter "On the chief cause of the anomalies in the light-variations of Y Cygni." Mr. Yendell in his paper thoroughly agrees with the explanation put forward by Prof. Dunér to account for the anomalies in the light-variations, and says that, when the two series of observations are taken simultaneously, "the substantial correctness of his (Dunér's) fundamental assumption appears to me to be proved beyond the possibility of a cavil." It may be remembered that, in Prof. Dunér's former paper on this subject, he was struck with the discordance of some of Mr. Yendell's observations, which did not seem to harmonize with his own suggested explanation. These observations are now published in detail in this paper, and will be read with interest by those who are following up this curious variable.

Prof. Dunér, in a few words, discusses the results obtained when his own observations are compared with those of Mr. Yendell. The differences between the observed and calculated times of minima showed a decided rate of change, the mean rate being -0·023d., but lacked regularity. In one case the jump from one epoch to another amounted to a rate of – 0·056d., but he thinks that this may be accounted for by a variation in Mr. Yendell's method of observing, for other observations show altogether nearly constant deviations; indeed, "it will be more correct to attribute the discordance simply to errors of observation, than to anomalies in the light-variations of the star."

Active Lunar Volcanoes?—Prof. Pickering, in the *Observatory* for this month, raises the question of active lunar volcanoes, from some recent observations made with the 13-inch Clark, using powers varying from 800–1200. Examining first the Mare Serenitatis, of 67 craters 32 were found common to